

**METHOD FOR AVOIDING DELAYS DURING SNOOP REQUESTS**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5       A method of and apparatus for improving the efficiency of a  
data processing system employing a multiple level cache memory  
system. The efficiencies result from enhancing the response to  
SNOOP requests. To accomplish this, the system memory bus is  
provided separate and independent paths to the level two cache and  
10      tag memories. Therefore, SNOOP requests are permitted to directly  
access the tag memories without reference to the cache memory.  
Secondly, the SNOOP requests are give a higher priority than  
operations associated with local processor data requests. Though  
this may slow down the local processor, the remote processors have  
15      less wait time for SNOOP operations improving overall system  
performance.